

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRIDGE 01273 092048Z

73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SAM-01 /059 W

----- 081743

R 091859Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1074

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

COMNAVFORCARIB

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 1273

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, BB

SUBJ: BARROW HINTS ACTION AGAINST US NAVAL FACILITY

REF: BRIDGETOWN 1035

BARBADOS' WEEKLY THE NATION CARRIED THE FOLLOWING
REPORT IN ITS ISSUE OF JULY 4, ON THE STREETS JULY 2:

"GOVERNMENT MAY TAKE OVER US BASE"

"THE BARBADOS GOVERNMENT MAY TAKE OVER THE UNITED
STATES NAVAL FACILITY IN ST. LUCY.

"THE SUGGESTION CAME ON TUESDAY IN THE HOUSE OF
ASSEMBLY WHEN PRIME MINISTER MR. ERROL BARROW INTRODUCED
THE RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT
(TEACHERS) ORDER 1976.

"DURING HIS INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BARROW HINTED OF
THE TAKEOVER.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRIDGE 01273 092048Z

"DISCUSSING WHAT HE CALLED THE FAILURES OF THE BARBADOS

LABOUR PARTY GOVERNMENT FROM THE BRIDGETOWN HARBOUR IN THE SOUTH TO HARRISON POINT IN THE NORTH, BARROW ATTACKED THE THEN GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TO WORKERS RIGHTS AND RIGHTS OF LAND OWNERSHIP.

"HE SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHO WERE THE TRUE OWNERS OF THE LAND AT HARRISON'S POINT NOW OCCUPIED BY THE U.S. FACILITY, BUT 'I HOPE TO BE ON THE NEGOTIATING TEAM WHEN THE TALKS ARE STARTED.'

"PROMISING THAT THE OPPOSITION WOULD 'HEAR MORE ON THIS MATTER LATER' BARROW SAID'I KNOW A LOT ABOUT HARRISON'S POINT... I KNOW THAT IT HAS TO BE RETURNED TO ITS RIGHTFUL OWNERS.'

"THE UNITED STATES FACILITY, NOW UNDER COMMANDER CHARLES ZETTLE, WAS ESTABLISHED IN OCTOBER 1957.

"DURING A RECENT PRESS CONFERENCE HELD BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON THE MATTER OF 'DESTABILIZATION' HE SAID THAT HE WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO SAY WHETHER OR NOT GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE OVER THE FACILITY IN AN ATTEMPT TO CONTROL ELEMENTS OF DE-STABILIZATION IN THE COUNTRY. AT THAT TIME BARROW SAID THAT THE BUILDINGS WOULD BE MOST SUITABLE FOR A POLY-TECHNIC IN THE NORTH.

"THE AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES ON THE USE OF THE ST. LUCY FACILITY IS DUE TO BE RENEGOTIATED IN JUNE 1977."

COMMENT: IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO ASCERTAIN IF THE PRIME MINISTER SPOKE EXACTLY AS THE NATION REPORTS AND THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE HOUSE SESSION WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. IT CERTAINLY SOUNDS LIKE BARROW IN HIS CURRENT PHASE, HOWEVER, AND IT IS PROBABLY SUBSTANTIALLY CORRECT.

AT A PRESS CONFERENCE EARLIER IN THE MONTH BARROW MADE SIMILAR REMARKS, EVEN TO HIS SAYING THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHO OWNS THE LAND ON WHICH THE BASE IS LOCATED (REFTEL). (THE GOB DOES) THAT HE HAD NOT TAKEN THE TROUBLE TO FIND CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BRIDGE 01273 092048Z

OUT WHO OWNS THE LAND MIGHT BE AN INDICATION THAT HE IS MERELY GESTURING. (BARROW, WHO WAS BORN LESS THAN A MILE FROM THE SITE, WAS ATTORNEY FOR THE OWNERS AT THE TIME THE BASE AGREEMENT WAS CONSUMMATED.)

BUT HE MUST AT LEAST GESTURE. ONCE BARROW BEGAN THE CRY OF "DESTABILIZATION," THE LOGIC OF THIS POSTURE INEVITABLY DEMANDED THAT HE ADOPT A STERN ATTITUDE TOWARD THE US NAVAL

FACILITY LOCATED ON THE NORTH COAST OF THE ISLAND. IF HE HAD NOT, IT COULD HAVE BEEN DEMANDED OF HIM (NOT ONLY BY OPPONENTS BUT ANY REASONABLE FOLLOWER OF THE "DESTABILIZATION" THEME) HOW HIS GOVERNMENT COULD CONTINUE TO ALLOW THE NAVAL PRESENCE ON THE ISLAND OF THE "DESTABILIZING" POWER. WHETHER BARROW WILL FIND MERE GESTURES SATISFACTORY OR WILL BE FORCED BY THE LOGIC OF THE SITUATION TO DEMAND THAT THE US WITHDRAW FROM THE BASE EITHER ON THE EXPIRATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON DECEMBER 31, 1977 (INCORRECTLY GIVEN IN THE NATION PIECE AS JUNE 1977) OR EARLIER CAN NOT BE ESTIMATED AT PRESENT. WHAT IS CLEAR, THOUGH, IS THAT THE MORE BARROW CRIES "DESTABILIZATION", THE MORE HE WILL HAVE TO PRESSURE THE US ON THE BASE.

IT IS OF INTEREST TO NOTE THAT THE NATION'S STAFF WRITER (WHO IS ALSO A POLITICIAN), AL GILKES, AND WHO GREW UP AT HARRISON POINT STILL HAS MIXED EMOTIONS ABOUT THE BASE'S CONTINUANCE, AND COULD BE PROMOTING ITS PHASING OUT. ROBERT BEST, THE EDITOR OF BARBADOS' ONLY DAILY, THE ADVOCATE-NEWS, ON THE OTHER HAND, TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER IN THE COURSE OF A CONVERSATION ON THE NATION'S REPORT, THAT HE WAS PURPOSELY UNDERPLAYING THE PRIME MINISTER'S "DESTABILIZATION" CHARGES BECAUSE THE BARBADIAN PUBLIC IN HIS VIEW SEE IT AS CAMPAIGN GIMMICKRY AND FOR THE ADVOCATE TO GIVE THE PRIME MINISTER'S REPEATED AND UNSUBSTANTIATED CHARGES FULL COVERAGE WOULD LEND THEM AN IMPORTANCE AND A CREDENCE THEY DO NOT DESERVE. BRITTON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL STABILITY, ECONOMIC STABILITY, INTERVENTION, NATIONALIZATION, ALLEGATIONS, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BRIDGE01273
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760265-0894
From: BRIDGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760776/aaaacojk.tel
Line Count: 141
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BRIDGETOWN 1035
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <08 JUL 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BARROW HINTS ACTION AGAINST US NAVAL FACILITY
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, BB, US, (BARROW, ERROL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006